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THE

THOMAS JEFFERSON

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

MONTICELLO, VIRGINIA

Report of the Curator 1961

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THE

THOMAS JEFFERSON

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

MONTICELLO, VIRGINIA

Report of the Curator

TO THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

APRIL 13, 1961

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

was incorporated in New York in 1923
as an organization "to purchase, preserve, and maintain
Monticello . . . as a monument to the genius
and patriotism of Thomas Jefferson,
and a constant reminder of the principles inscribed
in the Declaration of Independence."

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JEFFERSON-MONTICELLO CHRONOLOGY

1743. Born at Shadwell.
1757. His father, Peter Jefferson, died.
1760-1762. Attended the College of William and Mary.
1762. Began the study of law with George Wythe in Williamsburg.
1767. Admitted to the bar. "inoculated common cherry buds . . . at Monticello." Jefferson's first mention of Monticello.
1768. Leveling of the mountain top begun.
Early specifications for the main house being checked.
1769. Began building at Monticello.
1770. His home, Shadwell, burned. "Moved to Monticello."
1771. Voiced his need for an architect (builder).
1772. Married Martha Wayles Skelton.
1775-1776. Member of the Continental Congress.
1776-1779. Member of the Virginia House of Delegates.
1779-1781. Governor of Virginia.
1782. Monticello substantially completed. His wife died.
1783-1784. Member of the Continental Congress.
1784-1789. In France as commissioner and minister.
1790-1793. United States Secretary of State.
1793. Remodeling of the Monticello dwelling house begun.
1797-1801. Vice-President of the United States.
1801-1809. President of the United States.
1815. Library sold to the United States Government.
1819. The University of Virginia chartered.
1825. The University of Virginia opened to students.
1826. July 4. Jefferson died at Monticello.
1827. Vandalism led to the forbidding of visitors to Monticello.
Public sale of household furnishings on January 15.
1829. Last of the family moved from Monticello.
1831. Purchased by James Barclay, Albemarle County, Va.
1836. Purchased by Commodore Uriah P. Levy, of New York City.
1862. Seized by the Confederate Government.
1865. Returned to the Levy heirs after the defeat of the Confederacy.
1879. Jefferson M. Levy became the sole owner.
1923. The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation organized at the Lawyers Club in New York City on April 13.
Monticello purchased by The Foundation on December 1.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

THE aims of this Foundation, now in the 38th year of operation, have varied little from those expressed by the Founders, who in 1923 made Monticello into a national monument. The house and grounds are still preserved and maintained as an expression of reverence for the memory of Jefferson and for the principles for which he contended. Much effort in time and money has been expended for this purpose with the hope that a measure of success has been achieved. The house and grounds have re-assumed their 1809 appearance. The acquisition of Jefferson household possessions and memorabilia has been so fruitful that today only the Parlour contains non-Jefferson furnishings. If this year's accessions be a yardstick, it will not be long before only original pieces will be on exhibition.

The program for the Thomas Jefferson Fellows at the University of Virginia is in full swing and has attracted excellent students whose work shows promise of contribution to the world of letters. Mr. Dumas Malone, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Professor of History and mentor of the Fellows, reports that the third volume of his biography is soon to be published; another milestone in his definitive work on the third president. Such signs are indeed heartening.

While accomplishments like those named above are brought about solely through support by our "historic house," attention may be equably directed to other areas and activities at Monticello. Some of these lie within a stone's throw of the West Front; others are more distant.

Although the house and its surrounding flower borders and grounds present what many consider a complete exhibit, other locations indicate the need for additional work. While not discussing the philosophical aspects or possible need for additional restoration at this time, it can nevertheless be pointed out that the sites of the Vegetable Garden Terrace,

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the North and South Orchards, the Roundabouts and some of the Roads might be brought back to their original appearance, according to Jefferson's own plans and directions. Such activity would involve no departure from the Foundation's past theme of preserving rather than restoring and restoring rather than reconstructing. Assuredly, Monticello would still be seen in, say, 1970, as the product of no architect's imagination save that of its designer and builder, Thomas Jefferson.

There is another field which extends beyond the panorama of the vista at Monticello but which carries the imprint of the Foundation with equal importance. This field includes the publications about Jefferson and his home, those sold in the Gift Shop and given out at the door of the mansion: narratives, booklets and picture books. It is hoped that future works of this nature may meet the quality, in content and appearance, which is illustrated by the *Reports of the Curator*, the booklets, *Jefferson Through the Fog*, *Thomas Jefferson's Bookmarks* and the *Monticello Anniversary Dinner Keepsakes*. Strict review, emphasis on a high standard of scholarship and typographic perfection should be scrupulously observed.

With great pleasure I note a successful year and salute all whose contributions have meant much to the formation of policy and the administration and operation of the Monticello property.

WILLIAM S. HILDRETH
Monticello

THIS year, 1961, the thirty-eighth of the Foundation's operation of Monticello, was noteworthy in many respects. Particularly so were the larger than usual number and diversity of accessions, the expansion of the library to a degree greater than anticipated, the celebration of the 218th anniversary of Jefferson's birth in conjunction with the University of Virginia, the response to the fourth annual essay contest, the anniversary dinner at Monticello and the publication and distribution of the Founder's Day address at the University, "The Relevance of Mr. Jefferson," by Mr. Dumas Malone, the distinguished Jefferson biographer and member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. There was also a slight increase in attendance and satisfactory advancement of several research projects.

Again, the high light of the year's activities was the dinner at Monticello the evening of April the twelfth. Professor Merrill D. Peterson, whose *The Image of Jefferson in the American Mind* made such a notable contribution to Jefferson scholarship, was the guest of honor. The Foundation's medal was presented to Professor Peterson for this distinguished addition to the body of writing about Jefferson by the Directors of this Foundation, pledged as it is to preserve and maintain Monticello and to perpetuate the memory of Thomas Jefferson and the principles for which he contended. Special guests were Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Edgar Finley Shannon, Jr., President of the University, Mrs. Shannon, Mr. Colgate W. Darden, Jr., former President of the University, Mrs. Darden and the wives of the Directors of the Foundation. The ladies lent delightfully subtle touches to the success of the evening, no doubt as did Mesdames Madison, Bayard Smith, Thornton and others when they, too, were dinner guests at Monticello.

The essay contest, open to the school children of Albemarle County and Charlottesville, was again held. The topic, "Thomas Jefferson as an Architect," a difficult one

for young people (and adults as well), nevertheless engendered a vigorous and enthusiastic response to the challenge and on numerous occasions during the preparation of their papers contestants overtaxed the facilities of the local libraries. This reaction to the contest was particularly gratifying. Individual winners from each school were awarded twenty-five dollar United States Savings Bonds. Miss Peggy Simms of the Crozet Elementary School and Miss Nancy Cooley of Lane High School, Charlottesville, were presented additional bonds of $100.00 and a medal for the best papers interpreting the impact of Jefferson on architecture. Mr. Henry J. Taylor, author, diplomat and Vice President of the Foundation, made the awards at the ceremony in the Entrance Hall at Monticello on April the thirteenth. A fifth contest, scheduled for 1962, has for its subject, "Thomas Jefferson as a Citizen of Albemarle."

The papers of past members of the Board of Directors and of the Staff form an integral and important part of our archives. These are not only desired but are actively sought for, for preservation and use. Until these can be included with the official correspondence and printed materials our archives will not be complete. Unfortunately, those of Stuart Gibboney's, first president and a great force in the early days of the Foundation's existence, are not presently preserved with the valuable segments from the papers of the late Fiske and Marie Kimball, Henry Alan Johnston and Mr. Charles D. Makepeace, a former treasurer. Until such material can be assembled at Monticello it will occupy a high priority in our program. This year a number of files of correspondence relating to routine administrative matters and celebrations have been added by Messrs. Frank K. Houston and William S. Hildreth.

Considerable effort is being devoted to systematizing and enlarging records that are of value in authenticating Jefferson's household and other possessions and in answer-

ing queries about him, the house and the grounds. The Furnishings File, the most important tool in this tedious and difficult process, has been increased from the 175 names of persons and institutions that it contained in 1958, the year of its inception, to over 280. More than half of the individual items possessed by these owners have been photographed, described, or both, and these photographs have been augmented with as complete a résumé of their histories as is possible to assemble. An important adjunct is the Painting File which, in 1959, held less than 200 references to medals, paintings, engravings, statues, silhouettes and drawings owned by Jefferson; today there are 233 in the file. The increase is mainly in engravings and drawings that were never entered on various Monticello inventories and catalogues and did not arrive in time to occupy a place on the crowded Monticello walls. The Silver, Descriptions of Monticello, Iconography and Construction Files and the Source Book have grown only slightly because no major effort was made here in the past twelve months.

An important subsidiary, however, to the Iconography File is one containing interior views of the house, the earliest being drawings by Benson J. Lossing during his visit in 1853 and reproduced in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. These are photographs showing the appearance of the first floor rooms during the Levy ownership and of the Foundation's first years. There is indeed a striking contrast between the interior of the house in 1925 and today.

Special emphasis has been placed on indexing the Jefferson account books, resulting in the completion of those from 1767 to 1789. Information found on more than 5,000 index cards has been transcribed into two typescript volumes for ease in handling. The object for 1962 is to finish the index for the second phase, the years from 1790 to 1809. At the completion of phase three, the indexing from

1810 to 1826, a plan to consolidate the card files into a single one is contemplated which will be reproduced on microfilm.

The year's attendance of 244,961, only 415 more than in 1960, reiterates a former conclusion that visitations to Monticello have reached a plateau which, unless affected by a catalytic agent similar to the 350th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, will probably vary only slightly with this year's total.

ACCESSIONS

A most pleasing and exciting aspect about Monticello is the sudden, unexpected turning up of items with a Jefferson provenance. The compilation of this potential list has, of course, not been accomplished; however, it is illustrated by the Furnishings File. The accession of authentic pieces was greater this year than in any of the last five. The year 1961 may prove to be the most productive period in the Foundation's history except, perhaps, the occasions when Miss Frances Maury Burke made her liberal contributions. Certainly from a standpoint of numbers, importance and diversity of objects it was successful and represents a significant forward step in our presentation of Jefferson and Monticello. These additions achieve the dual aim of acquisition for exhibition and preservation.

Accessions range from pictures to pocket pistols, silver spoons, the leg bone of a mastodon, a small skillfully conceived table, Mary Girardin's watercolor of Monticello, one of a pair of exercising dumbbells, spectacles with tinted lenses, a side chair with brass inlay, a pocket balance, a travelling liquor chest, books purchased for Martha Jefferson by her father and three volumes from the Monticello libraries. In addition, a number of manuscripts, six engravings for the Coolidge-Jefferson Collection from Thomas

Jefferson Coolidge, III, and a copy by Frances Maury Burke of the Edgehill Jefferson portrait by Gilbert Stuart from the estate of Mrs. Kimberley Scott of Baltimore, Maryland were also acquired.

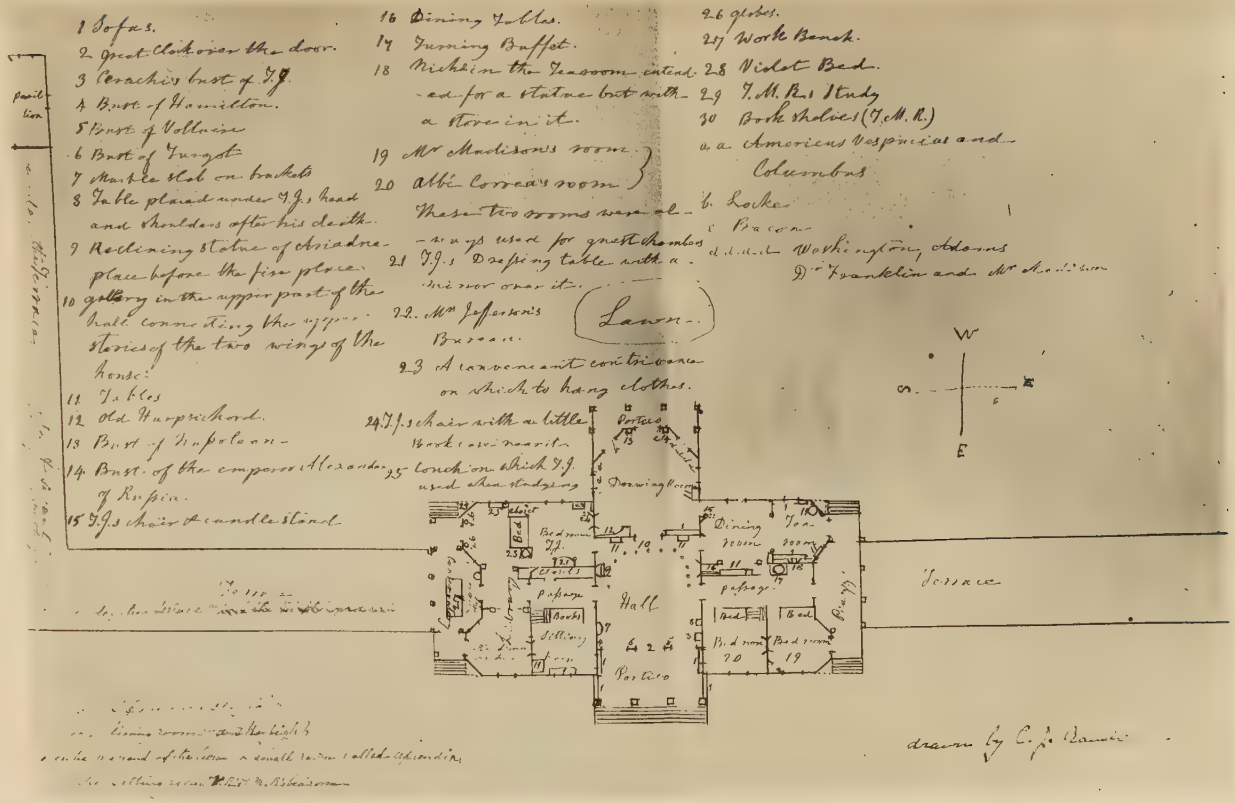
For sheer number and variety the loan of Mr. Gordon Trist Burke of Omaha, Nebraska, should head the list. His kindness reduces the number of large collections of Jeffersoniana in private hands to about half a dozen.

Among items to be especially mentioned are a pair of spectacles with bluish colored lenses and a very small balance, made by A. Wilkinson of "near Liverpool, England," used chiefly to weigh coins. Jefferson is thought to have bought them in Europe; the spectacles are American in origin. Possibly the most interesting item is the small lead dumbbell. It is one of a pair (the other descended in another branch of the Randolph-Trist-Burke families) made at Monticello in 1812. Their exact use and by which members of the household has not been determined; however, they may have been fashioned for the purpose of strengthening Jefferson's ailing wrists. There are also two engravings not previously known to have been owned by him. One is of Maria Cosway, the recipient of the famous "My Head and My Heart" dialogue, and the other of Nicolas Dufief, the Philadelphia book publisher and author. The latter, by St. Memin, was found in volume one of his *Nature Displayed*, which he gave to Jefferson. Both of these are hung in the library.

Mr. Burke also placed on loan six manuscripts, including two Jefferson ALS's: one, of April 13, 1824, to his grandson-in-law, Nicholas Philip Trist, and the other, of June 25, 1787, to his daughter, Martha, when she was a student in Paris. Other important pieces are a Martha Jefferson note, 1787, refusing the proffer of a gift by St. John de Crevecoeur; a Dolley Madison letter to Mrs. Nicholas Philip Trist (Virginia Jefferson Randolph) in which she indicates

that the friendship between the two families was as evident ten years after Jefferson's death as before it; and an Elizabeth House Trist letter to Jefferson, of November 26, 1804, in which she makes an allusion to his portrait, probably a *verre églomisé* profile by Amos Doolittle. Possibly the most engaging manuscripts are two Lafayette notes, inscribed at Monticello, to his host's grandchildren, Cornelia and Virginia Jefferson Randolph, on the eve of his departure in 1824. In them he expressed his feelings for these two young ladies and his great attachment for their grandfather and the Monticello family in general. Not a part of the Burke loan but closely akin to it is the album of Mary Jefferson Randolph, another granddaughter. This album, also inscribed in by Lafayette on the same visit, has not survived; however, a transcription of his message before its destruction has. The volume and a number of books from the Poor Sale were destroyed when water from a flash flood reached "a safe place" in the home of the owner to whom they descended.

Jefferson's awareness of the value of time and of the danger of its waste by others readily explains his affinity for time telling devices. In addition to those he obtained for himself and Monticello, he presented them to members of his household and his family. To each of his granddaughters he gave beautiful French watches, many of which may be seen in the Museum Room at Monticello. He also saw that Thomas Beverley Randolph, a nephew of his son-in-law's, and a resident at Monticello for months prior to his matriculation at West Point in 1812, was given a watch bearing a typical Jefferson inscription: "T. J. to T. B. R." The watch is the loan of the family of S. Rolfe Millar of Front Royal, Virginia, in which it descended. Jefferson also gave him Peyton Randolph's portable writing desk which he had acquired in 1776 when he purchased the "Speaker's library."


1 Sofas.
2 Great Clock over the door.
3 Ceracchi's bust of T.J.
4 Bust of Hamilton.
5 Bust of Volltaire
6 Bust of Turgot
7 Marble slab on brackets
8 Table placed under T.J.'s head and shoulders after his death.
9 Reclining statue of Ariadne place before the fire place.
10 gallery in the upper part of the hall communicating the upper stories of the two wings of the house.
11 Tables
12 Old Harpsichord.
13 Bust of Napoleon.
14 Bust of the emperor Alexander of Russia.
15 T.J.'s chair & candle stand.
16 Dining Tables.
17 Turning Buffet.
18 Niche in the Tea room intended for a Statue but with a stove in it.
19 Mr Madisons room
20 Abbé Correa's room
These two rooms were always used for guests Rooms
21 T.J.'s Dressing table with a mirror over it.
22. Mr Jefferson's Bureau.
23 A convenient contrivance on which to hang clothes.
24 T.J.'s chair with a little Book case near it
25 Couch on which T.J. used often to sleep
26 globes.
27 Work Bench.
28 Violet Bed.
29 T.M.R.'s Study
30 Book Shelves (T.M.R.)
a a Americus Vespucius and Columbus
b Locke
c Bacon
d d d Washington, Adams & Dr Franklin and Mr Madison
Lawn.
W
S
E
Portico
Drawing Room
Dining Room
Dining Room
Passage
Passage
Hall
Bed room
T.J.
Bed room
Bed room
Bed room
Portico
Terrace
drawn by C. J. Randolph

An early plan of Monticello's first floor drawn by Cornelia Jefferson Randolph, a granddaughter. It reveals information on the location of furnishings heretofore unknown. The loan of Mr. Gordon Trist Burke, Omaha, Nebraska.

One of a pair of pocket pistols owned by Jefferson.
The gift of Miss Florence P. Kennedy, Washington, D.C.

Six silver spoons purchased by Jefferson from Charles A. Burnett, the Alexandria, Virginia silversmith, in 1809. The loan of Mr. James A. Mathewes, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

One of a pair of lead dumbbells made at Monticello presumably to strengthen Jefferson's ailing wrists. Chiseled on one end is "Thomas Jefferson" and on the other, "1812 Monticello, Va." The loan of Mr. Gordon Trist Burke.

The leg bone of a *Mastodon americanus* from the Big Bone Lick, Kentucky exploration of William Clark. The loan of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

The earliest known delineation of Jefferson's bedroom. It was done by Benson J. Lossing for *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in 1853. From the Monticello Iconography File.

Among several items of household furnishings are six silver dessert spoons, the loan of Mr. James H. Mathewes of Spartanburg, South Carolina, to whom they passed from Benjamin Franklin Randolph. They were among the sixteen spoons bearing the mark of Charles A. Burnett, the Alexandria smith, included in the 1958 exhibition of Jefferson silver. The spoons have a pointed ovoid bowl, are curved at the top of the handle and inscribed with a script "J." There is difficulty in singling out this silver among many notations in the Silver File. They were not included in the Chevalier D'Anmours's purchase for Jefferson in Annapolis in 1784 because this date precedes Burnett's earliest recorded pieces; nor, for a similar reason, are they among the extensive ones made in 1790 in New York City. The only account book entry to mention Burnett's name is on February 1, 1809: "Pd. Charles A. Burnet. Plate 39.615." There is, however, in the Coolidge-Jefferson Collection in the Massachusetts Historical Society an undated manuscript in Jefferson's handwriting which reveals Burnett's wide selection and price range for table settings. Although not specifically mentioned in 1815 on his return of taxable property at Monticello, they were included in the "752. Oz. of plate Troy weight" reported that year. The spoons were retained by Martha Jefferson Randolph after her father's death and appear to be among the "18 dessert spoons" on her memorandum of circa 1830, and on another several years later. Family tradition says that Thomas Jefferson Randolph advised his mother to leave the silver to her male heirs and that she agreed. These spoons with numerous other pieces have descended through her sons and are therefore evidence to confirm this chimney side history.

A small, late eighteenth century mahogany table, known as a "universal table," is the gift of Miss Charlotte Noland of Middleburg, Virginia. Like many other pieces it went from Monticello to Edgehill, Thomas Jefferson Randolph's

home, where it remained until an unidentified member of the household gave it to Mrs. Barton Haxall of Rocklands, Goochland County, Virginia, Miss Noland's grandmother. The table is now in the Book Room of the Library Suite and holds several of the library's "great" folios.

A commode seat that descended from Monticello to Wilson N. Ruffin, Jr., a great grandson of Thomas Jefferson Randolph, who in 1939 gave it to his friend, Dr. Hugh Trout of Roanoke, Virginia, has been presented by Mrs. Trout. It varies in appearance with the toilet chairs of that day; it is much lower, has no back or arms and has a folding top which, when closed, resembles a large footstool. Although specific evidence is wanting, the assumption is that it was made in the Monticello Joinery. The general appearance is plantation and the apron definitely resembles others on furniture made there. The commode seat is displayed in the alcove at the foot of Jefferson's bed.

A delicate rosewood side chair of the American Directoire period with intricate brass inlay is the gift of Mrs. G. M. Mackenzie of Cooperstown, New York, to whom it descended. The brass decoration indicates its origin may have been from the *atelier* of one of the French craftsmen then working in New York City. This is one of a pair whose provenance is traced from Jefferson to his sister, Mary (Mrs. John Bolling), instead of the usual route from Martha Jefferson Randolph and her descendants. The chair, with its mate owned by Mrs. D. Tucker Brown of Charlottesville, Virginia, was given by Miss Martha Bolling, a kinswoman of Mrs. Mackenzie's and a friend of Mrs. Brown's. The piece is exhibited in the Library Suite, allowing the removal of another non-Jefferson chair.

Monticello's West Front has been depicted many times, but no one painting, which found its way into the house, could have been more appreciated than the watercolor by little Mary Girardin, whose father, Louis Hue Girardin,

the Milton, Virginia author, was a friend of Jefferson's. Jefferson accepted the gift with great courtesy when he wrote: "I thank your daur. for the colored drawing of Monto. It is beautifully done." The loan of Miss Frances L. Meikleham of Edgartown, Massachusetts, a descendant of Septimia Randolph Meikleham, the youngest granddaughter, it is now hung in the North Square Room.

Jefferson, who was an ardent walker for most of his life and an enthusiastic and expert horseman for all of it, advised his fifteen year old nephew, Peter Carr, regarding exercise. He wrote: "I advise the gun . . . this gives a moderate exercise to the body . . . boldness . . . and independence to the mind. Games played with balls, and other of that nature, are too violent for the body, and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun, therefore be the constant companion of your walks." Jefferson hunted as a boy and as a youth evidence shows that he was a fair marksman. At twenty-five he noted in his ever present account book: "Won at shooting 1/3." In a later contest during a muster of Captain Jacob Moon's Albemarle County Militia company he lost 2/3. As he grew older Jefferson preferred taking exercise on horseback, but he never lost his attachment for firearms. He wrote to Washington that "one loves to possess arms, though they hope never to have occasion for them."

Notations of purchase and ownership of arms and accoutrements may be found in his accounts and manuscripts. A cursory compilation shows that he owned a shotgun referred to as a "two shot-double Barrel," a number of pistols and other arms. Despite this, only a pair of pistols known to have been his and a rifle "said" his, have survived. The rifle is owned by Mr. Ben F. Hubbell of Hartford, Connecticut; the pistols have been presented by Miss Florence P. Kennedy of Washington, D.C., a descendant of Mary Jefferson and John Wayles Eppes. One of the weapons was

partially destroyed in a fire at Rosecroft, St. Mary's County, Maryland, then the home of her father, Alexander Kennedy. These arms are of the Queen Anne cannon barrel type and are technically known as box-lock, flint-lock pocket pistols. They were made in London by Dealtr and bear marks of circa 1750. Their purchase may be indicated in the account book entry of March 21, 1786: "Pd . . . for pr pocket pistols £ 4 - 10." This is the only notation specifying the type bought. Presumably, the pistols were carried for protection and cannot compare in workmanship, or use, with the Turkish pistol that Jefferson accepted from the estate of General Isaac Zane, instead of a monetary bequest. He gave these in 1815 to Payne Todd, Dolley Madison's son by her first marriage. He described them to Todd and modestly alluded to his marksmanship: "They are 20. inch barrels so well made that I never missed a squirrel at 30. yds. with them . . ."

Miss Kennedy has also placed on loan three Jefferson manuscripts: two letters, one to Mary Jefferson Eppes, of February 7, 1799, and the other to John Wayles Eppes, her husband, of February 22, 1801. The third is a note to Mary before her marriage. At the time she was boarding with Mrs. Pine in Philadelphia while her father was serving as Secretary of State. In it he asks Mary to inquire of Mrs. Pine "what be the price of Mr. Madison's picture . . . ?" This is the lost portrait of Madison which Jefferson listed in his "Catalogue of Paintings &c. at Monticello" as "James Madison. An original by Pine. Taken in 1790." It hung in the Parlour but disappeared after the paintings were removed in 1828 and taken to Boston for exhibition and sale. For obvious reasons Martha Jefferson Randolph informed her son that "Mr. Madison, I . . . wish to retain . . . Mrs. Madison has a claim to everything from us." Two years later Mrs. Joseph Coolidge (Ellen Wayles Randolph) wrote her mother from Boston that "the picture (Mr.

Madison) was also boxed up, and is ready to embark in the first ship . . ." It has not been heard of since. One may surmise that the painting came back to Edgehill (Martha's home after the death of her father) from whence it was sent to Dolley Madison at Montpelier and was lost when Payne Todd dissipated his mother's estate.

Another Monticello piece, a travelling liquor chest, has come through Eppes descendants and has been acquired from the Misses Susan Ware and Alice Bradford Eppes of Tallahassee, Florida, to whom it descended. It is one of the few furnishings at Monticello to come from this branch of the family. The chest, although not of handsome material or construction, contains eight hand-blown, gold-embossed bottles which, according to the Misses Eppes, conveyed "liquid spirits" (certainly the wines that he preferred above other beverages) between Monticello and Poplar Forest.

As early as 1781 Jefferson displayed an interest in natural history by asking George Rogers Clark to procure "some teeth of the great animal whose remains are found on the Ohio . . . a foretooth, grinder &c. &c." A year later he enlarged his request and asked for ". . . some of the big bones . . . a specimen of each of the several species . . . now to be found . . ." These he concluded are "to me the most desireable object in Natural history, and there is no expence of package or of safe transportation which I will not gladly reimburse to procure them safely. Elkhorns of very extraordinary size, petrifactions, or any thing else uncommon would be very acceptable . . . Descriptions of animals, vegetables, minerals, or other curious things, notes as to the Indians, information of the country between the Missisipi and waters of the South sea &c. &c. will strike your mind as worthy being communicated . . ."

Twenty-five years later he asked Captain William Clark, George Rogers's younger brother, when he passed through

the western country "to stop at the Lick [Big Bone Lick, Kentucky], employ labourers, and superintend the search" for fossils. Jefferson informed Clark that all costs were to be borne by him; these were paid on February 9, 1808 when he "Gave ord. on bank US. in favr. Genl. Clarke for expenses digging fossil bones for 199.66." Clark experienced fine success and in November, 1807 sent a detailed account of his work and a list of what he had found to Jefferson in Washington. These fossils arrived at the President's house on March 7, 1808, marked to the attention of the President. They were then spread out for study in a large reception room later identified by Margaret Bayard Smith as the East Room.

Jefferson's interest in acquiring these fossils was three fold: special items, including "a tusk and a femur" bone, if found, were for his Monticello cabinet; the majority of the specimens he wished to add to the American Philosophical Society's collections; finally, duplicates of these were to be sent to the National Institute in Paris. The fossils were selected by Dr. Caspar Wistar, the Society's curator, and soon found their way to Philadelphia where they remained until 1849. Then the entire Cabinet was transferred to the Academy of Natural Sciences, also in Philadelphia, where much of it may be seen today. The fossils sent to Paris were taken from the National Institute to the Museum of Natural History soon after their arrival. A group of the more noteworthy examples is still on display there.

It is a great pleasure to report that the Academy of Natural Sciences, through the good offices of Dr. Horace Richards, has loaned a leg bone of the *Mastodon americanus*, which may be one of item 21, "3. leg bones" of Box No. 1 on Clark's list. This has been added to the Special Cabinet established last year when three other items, a maxilla and two mandibles of the *Mammut americanus* also from the Big Bone Lick excavations of William Clark,

were loaned by the Department of Geology of the University of Virginia. These specimens, on exhibition in the Entrance Hall, help to satisfy the curious who come to Monticello expecting hidden stairways, rising beds and hoof prints on the floor and others who appreciate Jefferson's early scientific interests.*

THE MONTICELLO LIBRARY

No emphasis has been placed on acquiring volumes actually owned by Jefferson in the library now in building at Monticello, the third the Library Suite has housed. But this year volume three of F. Andrew Michaux *The North American Sylva* (Poor Sale 278) was purchased. This was a presentation copy from William Martin and it bears Jefferson's own block letters, "T. I.," on page one, a place he sometimes utilized to put his mark when a book contained no signature marks. Volume three is included among the forty-two titles Mr. Richard Wormser procured this year, which increased our holdings to 410 titles and 662 volumes. This is good progress because to locate a large number of books in the editions that Jefferson owned and in suitable bindings for exhibition is difficult and time-consuming. The library now has five stands of shelves; three in the Book Room and two in the areaway that joins it and the Cabinet. One stand was added this year.

We are in the happy position of having acquired by loan three more of Jefferson's own books: Charles Mead *The School Exercise* (Philadelphia, 1821), Nicolas Dufief *Nature Displayed* (Philadelphia, 1806), volume 1 and Jerome de la Lande *Tables de Logarithmes* (Paris, 1815). The first is from Mr. Mathewes and the others from Mr. Burke.

* See Howard C. Rice, Jr., "Jefferson's Gift of Fossils to the Museum of Natural History in Paris," *Proceedings of The American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 95, No. 6 (1951) for detailed treatment of Jefferson's interest in fossils.

Even more interesting is a set of books which belonged to Martha Jefferson, Lesage *Les Avantures de Gil Blas de Santillane* (Paris, 1767), 4 volumes. Jefferson bought this for his daughter when she was a thirteen year old schoolgirl at the Abbaye Royale de Panthemont in Paris. The novel is indicative of what he considered proper reading for a young girl. It was one of perhaps half a dozen novels which he thought worthy of serious attention as developers of a moral sense. Jefferson thought novels, in general, a "mass of trash." The fly leaf of this copy shows Martha's method of inscribing ownership of her books since she, like her father, used no bookplate. Here is one of her earliest signatures in which she used her full name: "Martha Jefferson"; at other times during this period it was: "Mademoiselle Jefferson." Just below the name appears an intermediary method: "M. Randolph." In the copy of Meade's *School Exercise*, originally a gift to Jefferson from Joseph Delaplaine, is found the most common form and probably her last: "MRandolph." Martha usually wrote under her name the particular place where she happened to be and, more often than not, the date. In *Gil Blas* there is "Panthemont 1785," but in the *School Exercise* only "Monticello."

Unfortunately, only the first volume of Dufief's work has survived. It is one of the titles to appear in both the great library (Sowerby 4819) and the Poor Sale (879) catalogues. *Nature Displayed* was a famous French grammar of its time: Jefferson got a copy for the University of Virginia library and there still exists a record of Edgar Allan Poe's having checked it out for his own use in the year of Jefferson's death. The set from which this volume came, possibly because it was a presentation copy, inscribed: "A Thomas Jefferson president des Etats-Unis de la part de L'Auteur," was not included in the 1815 sale and remained in Jefferson's possession until his death. At the Poor Sale auction of 1829 Nicholas P. Trist, Jefferson's grand-

son-in-law, may have forced the bidding up, as he did with other titles, and it was not purchased. The fact that the residue of unsold books remained in Trist's hands accounts for the presence today of many of this sale's volumes among his descendants. Jefferson's mark appears at the I and T signatures in the script letters characteristic of the great library. De la Lande's *Logarithmes* was similarly not disposed of at the Poor Sale (405). It carries the block letter markings at the proper signatures, putting it without question in the last Monticello library. Trist explains on the inside of the fly leaf the difference between the script and block letter markings.

The good fortune of completing a year that, in many respects, surpassed 1960's accessions and research goals is gratifying. We cannot assume, however, a complacent attitude when so many furnishings of Monticello and personal mementoes of Jefferson's are needed and when so many questions about his domestic side and life at Monticello remain unanswered; these constitute permanent challenges that deserve and command our best efforts.

James A. Bear, Jr.

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